



Significant transit service changes are coming to downtown Seattle on Sept. 24

*More
than 70
bus routes
that go
through
downtown
Seattle
will be
affected*

On Sept. 24, 2005, the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel will close for approximately two years so that Sound Transit can retrofit it for use by both buses and light rail. During the two-year closure, all bus routes that currently run through the tunnel will be brought up to the surface and will operate on downtown Seattle streets. For this reason, the closure will affect not only routes that currently use the tunnel, but also those that already operate on surface streets downtown.

Continued on page 2

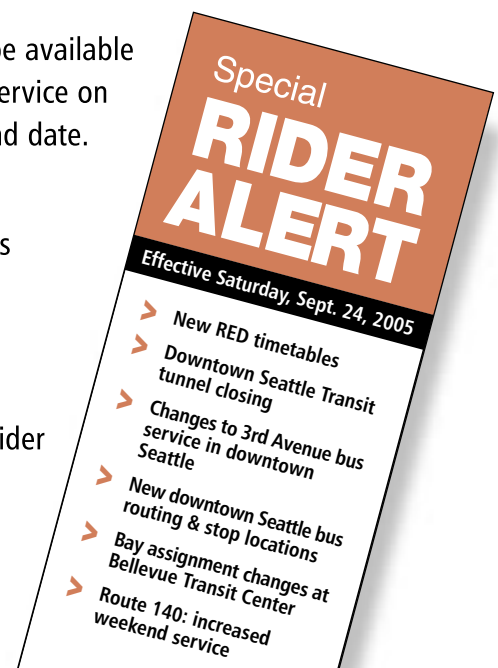
Look for new route information in September

Sept. 10—New route and timetable information will be available from Metro's online Trip Planner. For information about service on or after Sept. 24, be sure to enter the appropriate day and date.

Sept. 12—Metro's Rider Information phone line, 206-553-3000, will begin providing help in planning trips that will occur after the service change.

Sept. 15—Special Rider Alert brochures and new red timetables will be available on buses and at Metro information racks, work sites, and libraries. The special Rider Alert brochure will also be available on Metro Online.

Sept. 23—New timetables will be available on Metro Online by close of business.



Access Transportation

Due to heavier traffic volumes and a reduction in the number of loading zones, Access Transportation riders who travel into downtown Seattle may also be affected by the tunnel closure. Please contact the Access call center at 206-205-5000 (TTY Relay: 711) if you have any questions.

Westlake Pass Sales Office moves to Rainier Square

The downtown Seattle Metro Pass Sales Office is being relocated to Rainier Square in mid-September. The new location, on 4th Avenue between University and Union streets, sells PugetPasses and provides timetables and brochures for Metro Transit, Community Transit, Pierce Transit, and Sound Transit. The Pass Sales Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information

You can get general information now about the service changes by calling Metro Transit Rider Information. Specific trip planning help will be available after Sept. 12.

Alternate Formats Available

206-263-3703 TTY Relay: 711

Metro Online: <http://transit.metrokc.gov>
View route maps and schedules, plan trips, and more on Metro's award-winning Web site.

Metro Transit Rider Information

Use this phone line to ask questions or get live help with planning your route.

Telephone	206-553-3000
Toll-free	800-542-7876
TTY	206-684-1739

Note: Information about specific bus route changes will be available starting Sept. 12.

Inside this newsletter you will find:

An explanation of the downtown transit tunnel closure

Maps showing changes on major downtown arterials

Maps showing which bus routes will be running on which downtown streets

Diagrams and explanations of the new "alternating stop" system on Third Avenue

Why these changes are being made

King County Metro Transit and its tunnel project partners have several reasons for planning this dramatic service change in downtown Seattle. With the bus routes that have been operating in the tunnel moving up to surface streets, our goals are:

- To keep people moving through downtown as efficiently as possible;
- To balance bus and passenger volumes on streets and at bus stops in coordination with general traffic flow;
- To avoid bottlenecks and reduce bus volumes at key intersections; and
- To reorganize routes that already use downtown surface streets in order to make them run more efficiently.

Preparations during Summer 2005

In preparation for the tunnel closure and its related service changes, the City of Seattle has already completed several street projects designed to speed the flow of buses downtown. Construction projects on Third Avenue, Fifth Avenue South, Ninth Avenue, Prefontaine Place South, and Olive Way have altered traffic patterns and parking/loading zones to keep buses and traffic moving efficiently and safely during the tunnel closure. The city also added "contraflow" traffic lanes—transit-only lanes that go the opposite direction on an otherwise one-way street—to parts of Fifth Avenue South and Ninth Avenue. These new lanes will be used mostly by buses to get through congested areas.

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To keep buses and traffic running smoothly during the tunnel closure, Sound Transit, King County Metro Transit, the City of Seattle, and Community Transit are implementing bus service changes and a \$16 million package of downtown street projects. Changes include the addition of transit-only lanes to several city streets, restriction of general-purpose traffic on Third Avenue during peak commute hours, and improved bus movement and passenger loading throughout

the Central Business District. New bus shelters are also being installed, and existing ones upgraded.

Please consult this newsletter to determine how routes you use may be affected by the coming transit service changes in downtown Seattle. If you can't find the information you need here, you can look for more details on the Metro Online Web site or call Metro's Rider Information phone line at 206-553-3000.

In order to meet these goals while also meeting the challenges posed by the tunnel closure, Metro will use a new "alternating stop" pattern on Third Avenue, similar to the pattern it currently uses on Second and Fourth avenues. There will also be downtown routing changes to approximately 70 Metro and Sound Transit bus routes during the tunnel closure.

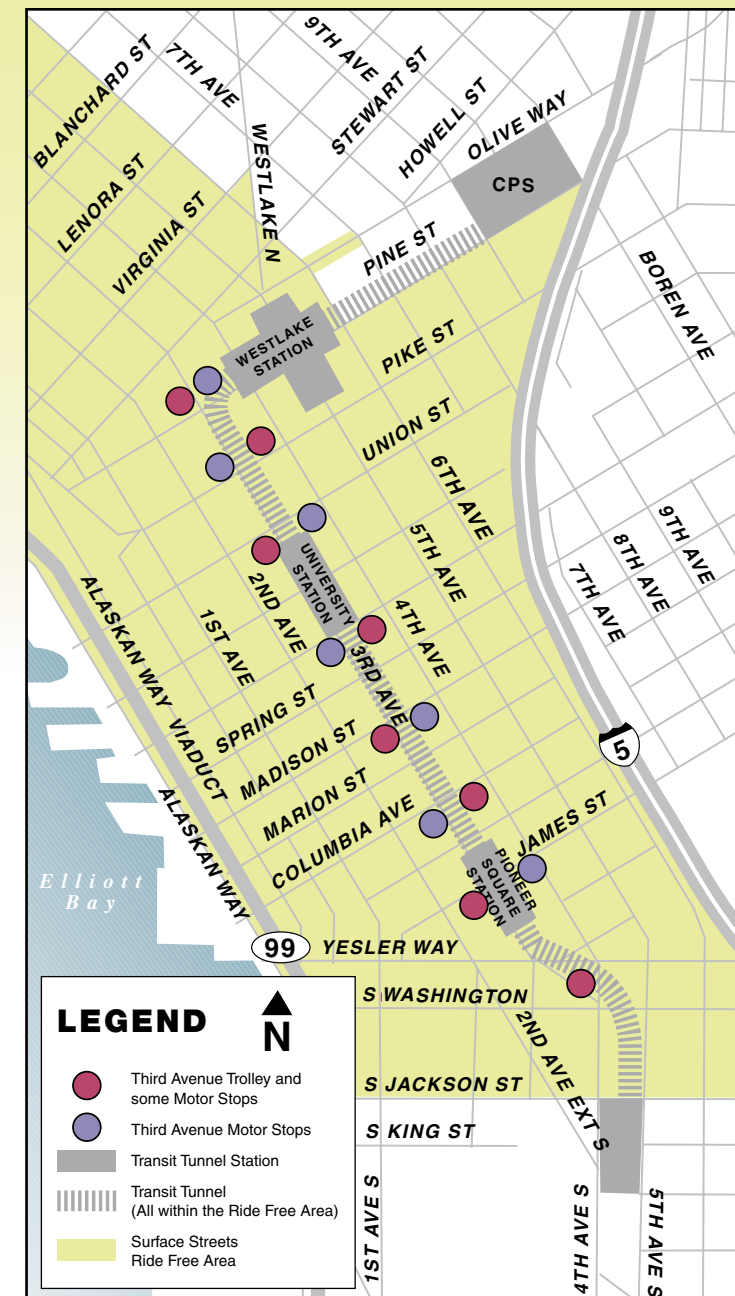
The September service change

The service change on Sept. 24 will add about 21 bus routes to Seattle's downtown surface streets each weekday, and put up to 140 additional buses per hour on downtown streets during the morning and afternoon commutes. All riders who travel to or through downtown Seattle should check the new schedules for the bus routes they use, as it is very likely that these routes will change in some way even if they do not run through the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel.

Map 5

Third Avenue alternating stops

Routes 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 13, 14, 16, 25, 26, 27, 28, 32, 34, 36, 39, 41, 42, 66, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74E, 76, 77, 79, 101, 106, 150, 160, 163, 301, 304, 306, 308, 312, 316, 355, 358, and 522



Because so many routes are being shifted to Third Avenue, Metro is dividing them into two sets, each stopping every 2-4 blocks, in a pattern similar to the one currently used along Second and Fourth avenues. This map shows which buses stop on which blocks.

Metro Online: <http://transit.metrokc.gov>

Metro Transit Rider Information

Telephone 206-553-3000
Toll-free 800-542-7876
TTY 206-684-1739

Map 4

Surface routes relocated from Second and Fourth avenues to Third Avenue

Local routes 26, 28, 39, and 42
Express routes 26, 28, 34, and 42
Commuter routes 160 and 163



Routes 26 local and express, 28 local and express, 34 express, 39 local, and 42 local and express will be revised to travel in both directions through downtown along Third Avenue. Routes 160 and 163 to Kent will be revised to travel southbound along Third Avenue to Fourth Avenue South via Third Avenue South and the Second Avenue Extension.

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Map 1

Tunnel routes relocated to Third Avenue

Routes 41, 71, 72, 73, 101, 106, 150, and 301



All of these Metro Transit routes will run on Third Avenue in both directions. In the north end of the Central Business District (CBD), these routes will travel eastbound on Virginia Street between Third and Ninth avenues, and westbound on Stewart Street between Ninth and Third avenues. In the south end of the CBD, Routes 41, 71, 72, 73, and 301 will travel from southbound Third Avenue to Fifth Avenue South via Yesler Way and Terrace Street, while Routes 101, 106, and 150 will continue south on Third to Fourth Avenue South via the Second Avenue Extension. All of these routes will travel northbound on Fourth Avenue South to Third Avenue via Prefontaine Place.

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Map 2

Tunnel routes relocated to Second and Fourth avenues

Routes 177, 190, 194, 196, 212, 225, 229, and ST 550



These routes will run southbound on Second Avenue when leaving downtown and northbound on Fourth Avenue when traveling into the downtown area. They will travel westbound on Stewart Street between Ninth Avenue and Second Avenue, and eastbound on Virginia Street between Second Avenue and Ninth Avenue. Routes 177, 190, 194, and 196 will travel to and from downtown via Fourth Avenue South, Royal Brougham Way, the Busway, and I-5. Routes 212, 225, 229, and Sound Transit 550 will operate to and from downtown via South Washington Street, Fifth Avenue South, and I-90.

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Map 3

Tunnel routes relocated to Fourth/Fifth avenues and Second/Third avenues

Routes 255, 256, 266, 306, and 312



Routes 255, 256, and 266 heading to the Eastside will travel north on Fourth Avenue and east on Olive Way to I-5. When heading into downtown Seattle, these routes will travel west on Stewart Street and south on Fifth Avenue, and will travel south of downtown in both directions on Fifth Avenue South. Routes 306 and 312 heading to the Northend will travel on Third Avenue and east on Pike Street to I-5. Heading into downtown Seattle, these routes will travel westbound on Union Street and turn south on Second Avenue, and will travel south of downtown on Fourth Avenue South in both directions.

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